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First record of *Eptesicus nilssoni* (Keyserling and Blasius, 1839) for Venetia (NE Italy)

Abstract - The authors report the existence in the Issel Collection of a specimen of a female Northern Bat captured in Cortina d'Ampezzo, province of Belluno, Venetia, Italy, in September 1969. This is the first record of this rare species for Venetia and the fifth for Italy.

Riassunto - Prima segnalazione di *Eptesicus nilssoni* (Keyserling & Blasius, 1839) (Chiroptera, Vespertilionidae) per il Veneto (Italia nord orientale).

Gli autori segnalano l'esistenza, nella collezione Issel, di un esemplare femmina di Serotino di Nilsson catturato a Cortina d'Ampezzo, Belluno, nel settembre del 1969. Si tratta della prima segnalazione per il Veneto e la quinta per l'Italia di questa rara specie di chiroterro.

Key-words: *Eptesicus nilssoni*, Chiroptera, Italy, Venetia, bat distribution.

The Northern bat *Eptesicus nilssoni*, a mid and north-European-Asiatic species according to Lanza and Finotello (1985), is one of the rarest bats of the Italian fauna. Its presence in Italy was so far documented only from four localities in the regions of Trentino Alto Adige and Lombardy.

The first capture of *E. nilssoni* occurred on the 14 August 1929 when a female of this species was collected inside a hollow tree at the Lake of S. Maria near Tret, Val di Non, Trent (1600 m a.s.l.) (De Beaux, 1929, 1931; Gulino and Dal Piaz, 1939; Lanza, 1959).

In 1987 Paolo Paolucci reported two more specimens: a male collected at Frussanide, Val di Genova, Pinzolo, Trent (700 m a.s.l.) on the 14 August 1980; and a female found dead at Corvara in Badia, Bolzano (1500 m a.s.l.) on the 13 August 1982.

Ten years later, on the 14 August 1992 two males of Northern bat were mistnetted, measured and let free at Chiareggio, Chiesa Val Malenco, Sondrio, Lombardy (1640 m a.s.l.) (Zilio and Cantini, 1992). According to Haffner and Stutz (1988) and Salvioni and Fossati (1992) *E. nilssoni* has been also reported from the Swiss boundaries of the Alps, namely in various areas

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of the Grisons and in the Canton Ticino. These ascertained presences, though patchy, suggest a probable sedentariness of the species on the Central Eastern Alps. During the collection of data for the distribution Atlas of Italian Chiroptera we became aware of the existence of an additional specimen of *E. nilssoni* collected in Northern Italy.

Thanks to the kindness of Drs Brigitte and Willi Issel of Augsburg, Germany, to whom we are greatly indebted for the precious information, we learned that a female Northern bat was captured alive by them over a swimming pool in the camping Dolomiti at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Belluno, Venetia, on the 6 September 1969. The bat was kept in captivity till the 28 July 1970 and is now preserved in the Issel collection under the catalogue number I-1359. Its measures (mm) are: Head+Body = 54; Tail = 44; Foot = 10; Ear = 16; Forearm = 40.5. (B. and W. Issel, *in litteris*). This finding is of particular importance since it is the first record of *Eptesicus nilssoni* for the Venetia region and also the easternmost collecting locality of this taxon in Northern Italy.

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